

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL INSPECTIONS

TOWN OF HANOVER

TOWN HALL, 550 HANOVER STREET, HANOVER, MA 02339 • (T) 781-826-6400 • (EMAIL) INSPECTIONS@HANOVER-MA.GOV

PHONE

CONSERVATION: (781) 826-6505
PLANNING: (781) 826-7641
BUILDING: (781) 826-6400
HEALTH: (781) 826-4611



FAX

CONSERVATION: (781) 826-5950
PLANNING: (781) 826-5950
BUILDING: (781) 826-5950
HEALTH: (781) 826-5289

Press release

West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Hanover

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CONTACT: Anthony Marino, Health Agent
TELEPHONE: (781) 826-5000 x 1077

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced today that the West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Hanover, Massachusetts. Both types of mosquitoes are bird biting and have been known to bite humans.

As a precaution, the Board of Health, working with the DPH and town officials, has ordered that all recreational and school fields be closed from sunset to sunrise for organized sports activities. The Board of Health and Town officials are working with Plymouth County Mosquito control to increase spraying in targeted areas.

By taking a few, common-sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Information about West Nile Virus and reports of West Nile Virus and EEE activity in Massachusetts can be found on the MDPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv>.